

Message Text

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ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01

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INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NG, SO

SUBJ: VISIT SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD TO NIGER

1. SOMALI PRESIDENT, GENERAL MOHAMMED SIAD BARRE
MADE 20-HOUR VISIT TO NIGER NOV. 13-14. NIGER SEIZED
OCCASION GEN. SIAD'S TRAVEL IN WEST AFRICA
PRESS HIM VISIT COUNTRY. (THERE WERE MISUNDERSTANDINGS
ABOUT LENGTH OF VISIT SINCE GON PUBLISHED THREE DAY
PROGRAM WHILE SOMALIS APPARENTLY COUNTED ON DEPARTING
FOR ACCRA BEFORE NIGHTFALL.)

2. GON CLEARLY WANTED USE GEN. SIAD VISIT IN ROLE AS
OAU PRESIDENT TO STRENGTHEN ITS AFRICAN, ISLAMIC AND
THIRD WORLD CREDENTIALS. COL. KOUNTCHE MADE SPEECH AT
LARGE RECEPTION IN HONOR OF SOMALI PRESIDENT IN
WHICH HE USED UNCHARACTERISTICALLY STRONG RHETORIC
IN ALIGNING NIGER IN FOREFRONT OF STRUGGLE AGAINST
A MULTITUDE OF BAD ISMS AND IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINIANS,
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ARAB-AFRICAN SOLIDARITY, LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND A

MORE ACTIVIST OAU. HE IMPLIED A MORE ACTIVE OAU SHOULD AMONG OTHER THINGS SPEND MORE TIME AND ENERGY DEALING WITH ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF LESS DEVELOPED AFRICAN MEMBERS SUCH AS NIGER. HE LAUDED PRODUCERS OF RAW MATERIALS WHO REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO PRESSURES OF INDUSTRIAL NATIONS AND ATTRIBUTED BLAME FOR WORLD WIDE INFLATION ON WESTERN NATIONS. IN OBVIOUS REFERENCE TO FRENCH-NIGER URANIUM NEGOTIATIONS, HE TOOK HARD LINE AGAINST "THOSE WHO SEEK TO EXPLOIT OUR NATURAL RESOURCES WHILE TOSsing US BITS OF CHARITY." WHILE NOT ATTACKING US BY NAME, KOUNTCHE MADE STRONG CRITICISM OF VETO OF SOUTH AFRICAN EXPULSION FROM UN. IN CONTRAST TO KOUNTCHE'S SPEECH, TERMINOLOGY USED BY GEN. SIAD WAS SOMEWHAT MUTED ALTHOUGH BOTH WERE BASICALLY ADVOCATING SIMILAR POLICIES. SINCE COMPLETE TEXT OF KOUNTCHE'S SPEECH SO FAR HAS NOT BEEN MADE AVAILABLE AND LOCAL MEDIA HAVE CARRIED ONLY EXCERPTS, INTENDED AUDIENCE SEEMED TO BE PRIMARILY, IF NOT EXCLUSIVELY HIS DISTINGUISHED GUEST.

3. AT DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE, PRES. SIAD RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS IN BROAD GENERAL TERMS. WHEN ASKED ABOUT OAU POSITION ON DISORDERS IN ANGOLA, HE SAID PORTUGAL WOULD RESPECT ITS AGREEMENTS AND GRANT INDEPENDENCE DESPITE DIVISION AMONG LIBERATION GROUPS. HE SUGGESTED PORTUGAL CONVOKE CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE ALL PARTIES FOR PURPOSE WORKING OUT ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH ANGOLANS THEMSELVES WOULD DESIGNATE PERSONS TO LEAD COUNTRY.

4. FINAL COMMUNIQUE WAS BLAND AND GENERALIZED.

COMMENT: VISIT BY SOMALI/OAU PRESIDENT FITS IN WELL WITH RECENT GON ACTIONS. COL. KOUNTCHE HIMSELF HAS COMPLETED VISITS WITHIN LAST FEW WEEKS TO UPPER VOLTA, ALGERIA, LIBYA, NIGERIA AND TOGO AND HAS SCHEDULED CHAD, IVORY COAST AND MALI FOR NEAR FUTURE. IT IS APPARENT THAT COL. KOUNTCHE AND TOP LEADERSHIP BELIEVE THAT WITH BETTER HARVEST THEY CAN BREATHE MORE EASILY AND CAN NOW BEGIN TURN ATTENTION BEYOND BORDERS. HECK

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